

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 6 has been amended to clarify the labeling of apertures (56, 57, and 58) in the upper puck guide member 68, the lower puck guide member 72 and the puck mount plate 50. A replacement sheet for Figure 6 is enclosed herewith.

**REMARKS**

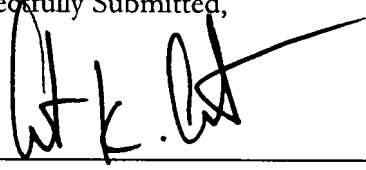
1. Applicants acknowledge that Examiner maintains double patenting rejections of claims 1-6 over Application No. 11/527,293 and Applicants continue to hold the rejection in abeyance.
2. Applicants note and appreciate entry of the amendments to the specification. Applicants would like to respectfully point out that the prior amendments were submitted on March 27, 2007 and not March 29, 2007, as asserted by Examiner.
3. Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT International Publication No. WO88/01247 to Aguero.
  - a. Applicants have amended claim 1. Applicants maintain the argument asserted during a telephonic interview with Examiner held on 13 September 2007, a summary of which accompanies this amendment. However, Applicants have amended claim 1 to require a means for transporting a peripheral surface of said elongate article through an interruption in the puck mechanism circumferential surface. Aguero does not disclose the amended limitation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection of claim 1.
  - b. Applicants have amended claim 2 to coincide with the amendments to claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 depend from allowable claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection of claim 2 and 3.
  - c. Applicants have amended claim 4 to include a limitation requiring that the at least one gripper element is movable between a first position and a second position, where the elongate article passes through an interruption in the puck mechanism circumferential surface when the gripper element moves from the first position to the second position. Figure 12 shows a gripper element in a first position, and Figure 15 shows the gripper element of Figure 12 in a second position. Aguero does not disclose the amended limitation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection of claim 4.
4. Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aguero in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,350,070 to Tasma.
  - a. Applicants have amended claim 5 to include a limitation requiring a gripper assembly for grasping and moving an elongate object through an interruption in the puck mechanism circumferential surface. Aguero does not disclose the amended

limitation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection of claim 5.

- b. Applicants have amended claim 6 to coincide with the amendments to claim 5. Claim 6 depends from allowable claim 5. Thus, claim 6 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection.
5. Applicants amended Figure 6 in prior Amendment A to clarify the labeling of apertures (56, 57, and 58) in the upper puck guide member 68, the lower puck guide member 72 and the puck mount plate 50. Examiner did not indicate whether such amendment was entered. Therefore, Applicants resubmit the amendment and a replacement sheet for Figure 6 accompanies this Amendment B. The amendment to Figure 6 is intended to clarify the description of the embodiment, which was entirely disclosed in the original application. This amendment does not add new matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

By

  
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Enclosure: Replacement Drawing Sheet